

Coordinating Agency:

Department of Homeland
Security/Science and Technology
Directorate

Cooperating Agencies:

Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of the Interior
Department of Justice
Department of State
Environmental Protection Agency
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The Science and Technology Support Annex describes the national processes through which the Department of Homeland Security/Science and Technology Directorate (DHS/S&T) coordinates with other Federal agencies, in consultation with State, tribal, and local entities and the private sector, to leverage the Nation's scientific and technical resources to prepare for, respond to, and recover from incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response. It ensures that policymakers and responders at all levels receive coordinated, consistent, accurate, and timely scientific and technical information, analysis, advice, and technology support.

Scope

This annex:

- Describes how DHS coordinates with other Federal agencies and State, tribal, and local governments, the private sector, and academia, where applicable, on preparedness, response, and recovery activities in support of the National Response Framework (NRF).
- Outlines roles and responsibilities for preincident and postincident science and technology support.
- Outlines a structure for coordination of scientific and technological support and response to incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response.
- Outlines a process to provide scientific and technical recommendations to Federal Government decisionmakers to assist in determining appropriate protective measures in the context of incidents requiring Federal coordination.

1 **Policies**

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3 The underlying principles for the role of the Federal Government in coordinating scientific and
4 technical support are as follows:

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- 6 • Planning considers and recognizes the various non-Federal policies, plans, and support
7 requirement processes associated with the delivery and receipt of scientific and technical
8 support.
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 - 10 • Support should be centrally managed and regionally delivered. DHS manages and
11 coordinates requests for scientific and technical support at DHS Headquarters through the
12 National Operations Center (NOC) and the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC).
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 - 14 • The official Federal prediction of atmospheric hazards dispersion is developed by the
15 Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC).
 - 16

17 **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

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19 **General**

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21 DHS/S&T is responsible for DHS scientific and technical support and coordinates with other
22 appropriate departments and agencies in response to incidents requiring a coordinated Federal
23 response.
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25 **ORGANIZATION**

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27 DHS/S&T provides the core coordinating architecture of the Federal scientific and technical
28 support capability. To accomplish its mission, DHS/S&T works with a variety of Federal
29 Government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations that are capable of providing
30 expert scientific and technical information, analysis, and advice, and state-of-the-art technology
31 support.
32

33 Using NRF protocols, mission assignments for scientific and technical needs are coordinated
34 through ESF #5 – Emergency Management and passed on to the cooperating agencies for
35 support.
36

37 Major science and technology support to incident management components include:

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- 39 • **National Operations Center:** The NOC provides Federal scientific and technical support
40 elements with relevant situational awareness and threat information reports. DHS/S&T
41 provides an S&T Coordination Desk liaison and an on-call S&T coordinator for the NOC. The
42 S&T Coordination Desk Officer serves as the principal staffer responsible for receiving,
43 documenting, forwarding, and tracking scientific and technical support requests. While on-
44 call scientific and technical support assets are mobilized, the S&T Coordination Desk Officer
45 may also serve as an emergency resource for delivering direct scientific and technical
46 support. The S&T Coordination Desk Officer has access to extensive technical databases
47 and reference materials on all topics related to weapons of mass destruction. DHS/S&T also
48 provides a liaison officer to the Incident Management Planning Team who provides
49 situational awareness to S&T leadership and is the conduit for S&T input into DHS
50 operational plans.
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- **National Response Coordination Center:** When the NRCC is activated for incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response, DHS/S&T assigns a representative to ESF #5 to coordinate and facilitate deployment and use of scientific and technical resources.
- **Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center:** The IMAAC is responsible for the production, coordination, and dissemination of consequence predictions for an airborne hazardous material release. The IMAAC generates the official Federal prediction of atmospheric dispersions and their consequences utilizing the best available resources from the Federal Government. Guided by an interagency memorandum of agreement, several Federal agencies and departments support IMAAC planning and activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Coordinating Agency: For incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response, DHS, in coordination with other Federal departments and agencies, is responsible for:

- Orchestrating the Federal scientific and technical support to affected States/regions.
- Coordinating the scientific and technical priorities and activities with other elements of DHS and Federal departments and agencies.
- Providing DHS/S&T liaisons to other Federal, State, tribal, and/or local emergency operations centers, as requested.
- In coordination with responsible agencies and when deemed appropriate, deploying emerging technologies and utilization of advanced research facilities.
- Executing contracts and procuring scientific and technical support services consistent with the Financial Management Support Annex.

Cooperating Agencies: Cooperating agencies provide representation to interagency working groups led by DHS/S&T that are used to identify Federal science and technology resources and the mechanisms to effectively access and coordinate those resources during NRF-related activities. S&T cooperating agencies provide a wide range of capabilities including research and development, laboratory analysis, and computer modeling.

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